

Pilgrim Valley Missionary Baptist Church has had an open-door policy towards the entire community, which has surely led to its continual growth in membership.

The church has been a cornerstone of the African-American community, providing a comprehensive drug abuse prevention program called Pilgrim Valley People Against Drugs, or PAD. The church has also provided sustenance for the needy, mentoring programs for the local children of the community, clothing giveaways, and college scholarships to its members seeking higher education.

Through the difficult times and the good times, Pilgrim Valley Missionary Baptist Church has always been a welcoming home for many in Fort Worth. Those who sacrifice their own needs for others are of the utmost moral excellence, and this church and its congregation are the epitome of selfless.

Madam Speaker, today I extend my sincere congratulations to the Pilgrim Valley Missionary Baptist Church and their continual outreach towards the community. I would also like to thank the recently retired Reverend W. G. Daniels for his 36-year devotion and service to the church. It is an honor to represent such a civic minded organization and individuals the 26th Congressional District of Texas.

CELEBRATING THE VISIT TO
WASHINGTON OF HIS EXCEL-
LENCY NECHIRVAN BARZANI,
PRIME MINISTER OF THE
KURDISTAN REGIONAL GOVERN-
MENT OF IRAQ

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to welcome to Washington and to the U.S. Congress a close friend of the United States, Prime Minister Nechirvan Barzani of the Kurdistan Regional Government of Iraq.

On the occasion of this important visit, I am also pleased that Congressman JOE WILSON of South Carolina has joined me to serve as co-chair and co-founder of the Kurdish-American Caucus.

America has no better friend in Iraq than Prime Minister Barzani and the country's Kurdish population. The Kurds have been among America's best allies in the overthrow of Saddam Hussein's regime and in supporting the transition to a democratic Iraq. Kurdish forces fight and die alongside U.S. troops in support of our mission in Iraq and are unambiguously grateful for America's many sacrifices in Iraq. They welcome a continued military presence in the Kurdistan Region as part of any redeployment of U.S. forces in the future, and offer their sincere friendship in the peace process. The Kurds are a model of stability and moderation in Iraq and have set themselves apart from the bloody sectarianism and factionalism that bedevils the political establishment in Baghdad today.

For those of my colleagues who have not visited the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, I would urge you to do so. My visit to Erbil earlier this year was an extraordinary lesson in how democracy can flourish in the Middle East. It is economically vibrant, peaceful and secure,

and pro-American. The Kurdistan Regional Government has seized the opportunity of liberation from Saddam Hussein to establish a government that is both a model for Iraq and a gateway to the rest of the country. This is not to say that there are no challenges ahead. However, with the inspired leadership of Prime Minister Barzani and his colleagues in the region, and his excellent representative in Washington, I am confident of a bright future. I invite my colleagues to join me in the Kurdish-American Caucus and to visit the Kurdistan Region of Iraq so they, too, can see how the ideals of a free and peaceful people can succeed even in war-torn nations of the Middle East.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JIM MCCRERY

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mr. MCCRERY. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Requesting Member: Congressman JIM MCCRERY (LA-04).

Bill Number: H.R. 5658, FY2009 National Defense Authorization Act.

Account: Research and Development, Air Force.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: U.S. Air Force Cyberspace Command (Provisional) which will administer funds to Louisiana Tech University, Ruston LA.

Address of Requesting Entity: Barksdale Air Force Base, Bossier City LA/Louisiana Tech University, Railroad Ave, Wylly Tower 1629, Ruston, LA 71272.

Description of Request: This \$4M authorization authorizes appropriations for continued research and development of the Remote Suspect Identification (RSI) initiative, a cyber security program that directly supports the Air Force's Cyberspace Command (Provisional) and the Eighth Air Force at Barksdale Air Force Base, LA. Funding will be utilized exclusively for research and development costs and well as associated administrative costs.

TRIBUTE TO ALLEN E. TACKETT
WEST VIRGINIA AIR NATIONAL
GUARD

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, today I rise to give my congratulations to the West Virginia Army National Guard, under Adjutant General Allen E. Tackett, for being the special category winner of the Army Chief of Staff Army Communities of Excellence.

The ACOE Awards are presented every year to recognize excellence in performance for installation management. The award recognizes installation improvement, innovation, groundbreaking initiatives, and dedication to efficiency, and effectiveness. The award also acknowledges support to soldiers, non-military employees, veterans, and military families who reside on Army installations.

The West Virginia Army National Guard, which has 32 units, is currently supporting

missions in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kosovo. It has been rated number one in readiness for the past 11 years.

The West Virginia Army National Guard has proven itself to be an elite, efficient military force. I am so proud that they have won recognition for their outstanding performance. Among their peer installations they have gained notoriety for their work in defending the homeland, and serving the American people at home and abroad.

I want to take this opportunity to thank and honor my fellow West Virginians who serve in the Army National Guard as well as all branches of the military. Their bravery and sacrifice exemplifies the best our country has to offer.

I encourage them to continue their hard work and am confident that they will continue to impress our Nation.

CLAY WALKER

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, it has been said that a real leader faces the music, even when he doesn't like the tune. Country music superstar Clay Walker has heard sour notes in his life before, but like a real leader he has stood strong and fought for what he believes is right. Because of his tireless dedication to fighting and finding a cure for Multiple Sclerosis he has earned the title of Artist Humanitarian of the Year for 2008 by the Country Radio Broadcasters.

Clay was born in Beaumont, TX, where country music is king. He was given his first guitar at the age of 9. Only 7 short years later, he walked up to a local radio station with a tape of a song that he had written himself. The station went against its own policy of not playing self-submitted tapes because, as the DJ announced, it was "too good to pass up." After graduating high school he went on a tour of Texas and took a job as the house singer in a local bar where he was discovered by a record producer from a major label. The rest, as they say, is history. Walker has released 10 albums, with 4 having been certified platinum and two certified gold. He has placed more than 30 singles on the charts, including 6 number 1s.

Walker's musical career hit some unexpected turbulence in 1996 when he was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis, the leading cause of non-traumatic disability in young people throughout the world. Despite dealing with occasional side effects like tiredness and tingling in his hands, Clay has been able to live, work, and maintain his quality of life through daily treatments and a healthy lifestyle. He knows that everyone diagnosed with MS can not enjoy those comforts. So in 2003 he formed the Band Against MS Foundation, a non-profit organization that aims to provide encouragement and education to those living with MS while also raising money to help find a cure for the disease. They have raised over a million dollars to fund research. He has also worked with the Make-A-Wish Foundation, the Ronald McDonald House, and Habitat for Humanity, among other charities. Walker was recently recognized for his selfless commitment